

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05

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R 061136Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 123

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USIRJC, ELAB, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN SEARCH FOR TRAINED FOREIGN MANPOWER

REFS: A/SEOUL-377 B/MANILA-705

SUMMARY. GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IS ENGAGED IN A WORLD-WIDE SEARCH FOR TRAINED FOREIGN MANPOWER, PARTICULARLY IN FIELDS OF HEALTH, CONSTRUCTION, AND ROAD BUILDING. AT SAME TIME GOI IS STEPPING UP PLANS TO SEND IRANIANS ABROAD FOR TRAINING AND GEARING UP IN-COUNTRY VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS. GOI HAS BEEN AT PAINS TO DEFUSE DOMESTIC REACTION TO THHE ALLEGED PROSPECT OF LARGE NUMBERS OF FOREIGNERS FILLING JOBS WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG IRANIANS REMAINS HIGH IN SOME SECTORS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEBRUARY 3, 1975, MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AMIR QASSEM MOINI, IN HIS SECOND PRESS CONFERENCE WITHIN MONTH, OUTLINED RECENT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO TAP SKILLED MANPOWER ABROAD TO MEET EXPECTED SHORTFALL OF TRAINED SPECIALISTS NEEDED TO FULFILL FIFTH PLAN DEVELOPMENT TARGETS. MOST NEEDED, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SAID, WERE TRAINED PERSONNEL IN FIELDS OF MEDICINE AND

CONSTRUCTION. MOINI TERMED NEED FOR APPROXIMATELY 4,600 SPECIALISTS IN LATTER FIELDS CRITICAL AND ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT CENTER, UNDER MINISTRY OF LABOR, TO HANDLE REQUESTS FOR FOREIGN TECHNICIANS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. AT THE SAME TIME, MOINI ANNOUNCED THAT IRAN PLANNED TO HIRE 2,200 DOCTORS FROM INDIA AND 2,000 ENGINEERS FROM THE PHILLIPINES AS THE RESULT OF RECENT CONTACTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BY AN IRANIAN MANPOWER TEAM WITH AUTHORITIES IN THE LATTER COUNTRIES. MOINI STRESSED THAT FOREIGN TECHNICIANS HIRED TO WORK IN IRAN WOULD RECEIVE THE SAME PAY AS COMPARABLY TRAINED IRANIANS, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT HOUSING WOULD EITHER BE PROVIDED OR HOUSING ALLOWANCES PAID.

2. SINCE MID-NOVEMBER 1974 IRANIAN MISSIONS HAVE BEEN ALMOST CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE, TRAVELING TO WESTERN EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE FAR EAST, SCOUTING THE FOREIGN MANPOWER PICTURE, DISCUSSING TRAINING FACILITIES FOR IRANIANS ABROAD AND SECURING ASSISTANCE FOR IN-COUNTRY VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING. COUNTRIES VISITED HAVE INCLUDED SWITZERLAND (ILO HEAD-QUARTERS), GERMANY, FRANCE, ITALY, ENGLAND, THE UNITED STATES, INDIA, SOUTH KOREA AND THE PHILLIPINES. THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE LED THUS FAR TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ILO TO TRAIN 600 IRANIANS ANNUALLY AT THE ILO INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN TURIN, ITALY AND AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN THERAN ON JANUARY 29, 1975 WITH BRITISH SECRETARY FOR TRADE PETER SHORE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LARGE VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN IRAN AND THE TRAINING IN ENGLAND OF UP TO 1,600 IRANIANS PER YEAR IN BRITISH VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS. DISCUSSIONS HELD NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 3 IN THE UNITED STATES WERE EXPLORATORY AND HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED UP AT THE FEBRUARY 4-5 U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF IRANIAN MINISTRY OF LABOR KARY, A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED ON JANUARY 16 IN THE PHILLIPINES, THE FIRST STEP IN REACHING BROAD AGREEMENT ON THE HIRING OF PHILLIPINE TECHNICIANS. KARY SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN SOUTH KOREA WERE FRUITFUL AND THAT IRAN FORESAW LARGE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE HIRING OF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SOUTH KOREAN EXPERTS. KARY DID NOT SPELL OUT IRAN'S TOTAL "SHOPPING LIST", SAYING THAT IT HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY REVISED IN RECENT

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MONTHS, BUT TOTAL SKILLED MANPOWER NEEDS TO BE FILLED FROM ABROAD ARE BELIEVED TO APPROXIMATE 75-80,000 PERSONS DURING THE FIFTH PLAN (1973-78) PERIOD. KARY ADDED THAT EXPERTS ARE BEING SOUGHT PRINCIPALLY FROM "POLITICALLY SAFE" COUNTRIES, AND MENTIONED THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS WERE WILLING TO GUARANTEE THE RELIABILITY OF THOSE TO WORK IN IRAN.

3. MINISTER MOINI'S EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE, ON JANUARY 15,

WAS CALLED MAINLY TO DISPELL GROWING PUBLIC FEARS, FED IN PART BY INACCURATE NEWSPAPER REPORTING, THAT IRAN WOULD SOON FACE A MASS INFLUX OF EAST ASIAN WORKERS, A SORT OF NEW YELLOW PERIL. MOINI EXPLAINED THAT THE PUBLICIZED FIGURES FROM IRAN'S REVISED FIFTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN SHOWING A PROJECTED SHORTFALL OF 721,000 SKILLED PERSONS, INCLUDING 560,000 SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS, BY THE END OF THE PLAN PERIOD WAS BASED ON THE CURRENT OUTPUT OF IRAN'S EXISTING VOCATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM AND DID TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CRASH PROGRAMS WHICH WERE GETTING UNDER WAY. MOINI EXPLAINED THAT THE GAP BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN THE SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKER CATEGORY COULD BE CLOSED RAPIDLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IR WAS EXPLICITLY STATED THAT NO UNSKILLED WORKERS WOULD BE IMPORTED.

4. COMMENT: THE ADDITION OF SOME 75-80,000 FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN IRAN WILL NO DOUBT POSE PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTMENT FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE NEWCOMERS. THE CREATION OF NECESSARY SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE FACILITIES HAS LAGGED BEHIND THE RECRUITMENT PUSH. SINCE MUCH OF IRAN'S INDUSTRY AND ITS NEWEST MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE CENTERED IN THE CAPITAL AREA, THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT OF THEIR ARRIVAL WILL BE LESS SEVERE THAN WOULD BE THE CASE IN OUTLYING AREAS. HOUSING WILL BE AN ACUTE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, AND THE PRESSURE ON OTHER FACILITIES WILL BE CONSIDERABLE.

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